

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to rise and speak for a minute in behalf of this bill. I fully support it. I congratulate Dr. GINGREY for bringing this important legislation, and I congratulate my other colleague from Georgia for speaking in favor of the bill and look forward to its passage and look forward to promoting other kinds of ideas. Mr. Speaker, where we can stimulate the private sector, provide for those things that are desperately needed by those that are disadvantaged around this country. They really need some help. They need some help in feeding themselves. They need some help in providing jobs, and the private sector's the best way to do that. We over and over on our side introduce legislation that would stimulate the economy, would create jobs, instead of robbing our grandchildren of their future as we see going on here in this Congress.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do rise in support of this bill, and I hope that we will pass it unanimously once it comes for a vote.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as has been mentioned by each of our speakers, we certainly applaud the Hunters for the Hungry program for the great job that they're doing, but this should serve as also a wake-up call and a challenge to more Americans, more organizations where, as the gentleman from Massachusetts pointed out with his statistics, there's so much more that we must do to reach that goal, that we have no American, no American child, no one in this country going to bed hungry at night for we are the wealthiest country in the world.

And so the Hunters for the Hungry program and H. Res. 270 presents not only an opportunity to celebrate the Hunters for the Hungry program but to accept the challenge for us to do more to make sure no American goes to bed hungry.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank my colleagues for certainly supporting this legislation. It truly fulfills the spirit that builds and makes America great, where neighbors assist neighbors.

I don't believe I have any additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 270.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 164) recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 164

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture has been promoting sound nutrition and fighting hunger in the United States since 1969;

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Service works with State and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and faith-based organizations to provide food and nutritional support to over 36,000,000 people in the United States who live in households that face food insecurity on a daily basis;

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Service supports schools in the United States by providing children with nutritious breakfasts and lunches and promotes wellness policies to ensure that children have a healthy start in life; and

Whereas the nutrition programs of the Food and Nutrition Service reach 1 in 5 citizens of the United States on a daily basis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the valuable historic and continued contribution of the Food and Nutrition Service and its employees to the citizens of the United States;

(2) commends the efforts of States, territories, local governments, and nonprofit charitable and faith-based organizations to end hunger and provide nutritious food to citizens of the United States;

(3) encourages the continued efforts to educate the citizens of the United States about the importance of eating nutritiously and living a healthy lifestyle; and

(4) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to end hunger in the United States and continue to lead the world in ending global hunger.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding and important work of the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service on the occasion of its

40th anniversary by supporting H. Con. Res. 164.

Mr. Speaker, since 1969, FNS has fulfilled its mission by providing children and needy families with better access to food and a more healthful diet through its food assistance programs and comprehensive nutrition education efforts.

In this time of great economic recession, the employees of FNS have demonstrated their extraordinary commitment to public service by ably serving a record number of Americans in need through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. In recent months, nearly 35 million people have found it necessary to make use of this safety net program.

In addition, FNS serves specific sectors of our population by providing school meals; funding and commodities for food banks and soup kitchens; and specialized programs for Native Americans, the elderly, infant and children, and pregnant women.

For their exemplary efforts on behalf of Americans in need, I congratulate the employees of the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Agriculture Department and encourage the speedy passage of H. Con. Res. 164.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 164 and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 164 recognizes the 40th anniversary of the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mission of the Food and Nutrition Service is to provide children and low-income families better access to food and a more healthful diet through its food assistance programs and comprehensive nutrition education efforts.

FNS administers the most important Federal nutrition programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program; the School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as the WIC program; the Emergency Food Assistance Program, which provides various commodities to our Nation's food banks; as well as other child and adult care food programs.

FNS is better able to serve our Nation's hungry because of the bounty of America's farmers and ranchers. FNS is able to use surplus commodities in their various feeding programs, thus ensuring those in need receive foods produced by the American farmer and rancher.

Many people do not realize that funding for domestic food assistance programs represents two-thirds of the USDA's budget. For fiscal year 2009, the enacted omnibus appropriations measure included \$76.2 billion for the programs administered by FNS. With the economy continuing to struggle, FNS has seen a record enrollment of

33.8 million food stamp participants. Clearly, the Food and Nutrition Service, in working cooperatively with the States, has a large and important role in serving those in need.

And again, I want to recognize the 40th anniversary of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, now it is with great pleasure that I'd like to yield 6 minutes to the cochairman of the Congressional Hunger Caucus and an outstanding leader in this Congress, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. I thank the gentleman, my colleague from Georgia, for yielding me the time and for his kind words, and I also want to thank Majority Leader STENY HOYER and Chairman COLLIN PETERSON and their staff for quickly scheduling this bipartisan resolution for consideration today.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution honors the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service for 40 years of fighting hunger in the United States. There are more than 36 million food insecure or hungry people living in America today. The Food and Nutrition Service, or FNS, is the lifeline for the hungry in our country.

The mission of FNS is to provide children and needy families better access to food and a more healthful diet through its food assistance programs and comprehensive nutrition education efforts. FNS does this by administering the Food Stamp, now called SNAP, program and child nutrition programs that include the school and summer meal programs. Without these programs and without the dedicated staff at FNS, millions of people in this country would be facing hunger and malnutrition.

Their work and dedication should be commended, and I am pleased to be the lead sponsor of this resolution honoring the 40th anniversary of the Food and Nutrition Service. I am also pleased that my good friend and colleague, the gentlelady from Missouri, JO ANN EMERSON, is a cosponsor of this resolution. Unfortunately, my good friend could not be here for this debate, but she is a strong supporter of FNS.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 years we have seen a major expansion in our Nation's antihunger programs. SNAP has been expanded twice: first, in the farm bill, which expanded both the eligibility and the purchasing power of the program; and second, in the Recovery Act, where the SNAP program benefits were accelerated to stimulate the economy and help families better afford food during this economic downturn.

This year, we expect to see the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Programs: WIC, the school breakfast lunch, child care, afterschool, and summer meal programs. And FNS is in the forefront of these programs.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased with the work FNS has done for the past 40 years, but this is also an opportunity

to look to the future. And I'm encouraged by the new administration, the leadership of Secretary Vilsack and his team at USDA. They are exploring ways to fight hunger, and I'm looking forward to developing a strong working relationship with Secretary Vilsack.

And while I'm pleased that USDA and FNS have worked so hard at responsibly implementing the antihunger programs authorized in the farm bill and in the Recovery Act, I am very concerned that there hasn't been more done on President Obama's pledge to end childhood hunger in America by 2015.

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I encourage the Secretary to use this 40th anniversary recognition to rededicate USDA not only to ending child hunger in the United States, but to start working with Members of Congress and other stakeholders on ways to improve the Federal antihunger programs.

I believe the Secretary should convene a Cabinet-level working group consisting not only of members of the administration but also congressional leaders in order to brainstorm on ways the administration and Congress can work together to combat hunger in our country. We need to show that the goal of ending child hunger by 2015 is something that this administration is committed to achieving.

I also encourage USDA and FNS to look into using their regulatory authority to make it easier for eligible families and individuals to sign up or be recertified for SNAP and other Federal antihunger programs.

In Massachusetts, we are seeing backlogs of new applications that last upwards of several weeks between submission of the application and approval or denial of that application. The issue is the increasing number of people who are becoming eligible for SNAP at the same time as current SNAP participants need to be recertified in order to continue participating in the program. The result is a backlog of cases for State administrators, causing lengthy delays that result in denial of food to hungry people.

Finally, I strongly encourage the White House to convene a conference on food and nutrition in order to bring together our Nation's leaders and stakeholders on hunger and nutrition. We need to put into place a strategy, a comprehensive strategy, to end all hunger in this country, and we need to do so while improving the availability of nutritious food. That will take Presidential leadership. I hope President Obama will convene this conference soon.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate FNS on 40 years of great work. Once again, I thank Chairman PETERSON for his willingness to move this resolution through the process quickly. I want to thank my friend, Mr. SCOTT, for all of his leadership.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speak-

ers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I could not be more eloquent than my good friend from Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, our distinguished co-Chair of the Congressional Hunger Caucus, because he spoke so well. But one salient fact that shows the significance of the Food and Nutrition Services and the work of our United States Agriculture Department in this area is the fact that when we look at child nutrition, and specifically our School Lunch Program, it has been documented in all too many cases that all too often that meal, that one meal from our School Lunch Program is the most nutrient meal that all too many of our young people receive each day. That shows the value of what the Food and Nutrition Service is doing.

We certainly commend the resolution, commend the work of Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, and our United States Agriculture Department.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the concurrent resolution to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Food and Nutrition Service has administered the Nation's nutrition assistance programs since 1969 and is the lead agency in charge of supporting the fundamental nutritional needs of children, low-income individuals, families, and communities.

Mr. Speaker, in the United States no one should face hunger, especially children. Over the past forty years, the Food and Nutrition Service has been critical to ensuring that children have access to healthful foods and nutritious meals at school, in childcare settings, and during the summer months that support their ability to succeed in and out of the classroom. The services provided by the Food and Nutrition Service encourage good nutrition and well-being that are necessary to ensure a healthy future for the country.

Through its programs, FNS actively promotes individual health and well-being for a strong and productive workforce. Through coordination with State and local governments, community organizations, and many partners, the Food and Nutrition Service provides access to healthful food, nutrition services, and education to 1 in 5 individuals at risk of hunger in the United States each day.

The programs administered by the Food and Nutrition Service are designed to respond to fluctuations in the economy and work to ensure all eligible children, individuals, and households can access nutrition benefits when they need it the most. Together, these programs form the Nation's nutrition safety net. As families, communities, and the Nation face significant economic challenges, these programs play an increasingly important role in supporting good nutrition and reducing the risk of hunger.

As the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor with jurisdiction for many nutrition programs administered by the Food and Nutrition Service, the Committee on Education and Labor recognizes the critical food assistance and nutrition services that these programs provide to children and families. And,

we are committed to ensuring that these programs have a strong foundation, so that all eligible children and individuals can access high quality nutrition assistance with dignity and respect. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the committee on the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Programs later this year to further strengthen the Nation's nutrition safety net and the services that these programs provide.

I commend the Food and Nutrition Service for 40 years of important service to the Nation and support the Agency's continued effort to promote food security through access to nutritious foods, to improve diet quality, and to educate individuals on the benefits of and strategies for living a healthy lifestyle.

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak here today on behalf of this resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture. When President Lincoln organized USDA he called it the "People's Department." That legacy is truly evident in the millions of Americans served each day by the Food and Nutrition Service.

Contending with hunger is a sad fact of life for 36 million food insecure Americans. The programs administered and implemented by the dedicated public servants at FNS, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, WIC, the National School Lunch Program, TEFAP and the Commodity Supplemental Food Nutrition Program—just to name a few—provide the difference between hunger and adequate nutrition for these adults and, unfortunately, so many children.

However, these programs, vital to so many of our constituents, do not run on autopilot. For the past 40 years dedicated individuals at the Food Nutrition Service have worked to reach those in need, while protecting the integrity of the programs they administer. They have driven error rates down, while working to increase participation rates; FNS has proven to be able stewards of the programs they administer.

Mr. Speaker, forty years ago today man set foot on the moon. This was a dream for untold generations which this government made a priority and achieved. When we set this goal, the tools needed to achieve it did not exist—they had to be invented. Forty years ago the Food Nutrition Service was also formed, our nation's greatest tool in fighting hunger. I look forward to the day when we set our goals high again and provide the resources necessary to truly end hunger in the United States.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 164.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 30) commending the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 30

Whereas the Act entitled "An Act to establish a Bureau of Labor", approved on June 27, 1884 (23 Stat. 60), established a bureau to "collect information upon the subject of labor, its relation to capital, the hours of labor, and the earnings of laboring men and women, and the means of promoting their material, social, intellectual, and moral prosperity";

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics is the principal factfinding agency for the Federal Government in the broad field of labor economics and statistics, and in that role it collects, processes, analyzes, and disseminates essential statistical data to the public, Congress, other Federal agencies, State and local governments, business, and labor;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics has completed 125 years of service to government, business, labor, and the public by producing indispensable data and special studies on prices, employment and unemployment, productivity, wages and other compensation, economic growth, industrial relations, occupational safety and health, the use of time by the people of the United States, and the economic conditions of States and metropolitan areas;

Whereas many public programs and private transactions are dependent today on the quality of such statistics of the Bureau of Labor Statistics as the unemployment rate and the Consumer Price Index, which play essential roles in the allocation of Federal funds and the adjustment of pensions, welfare payments, private contracts, and other payments to offset the impact of inflation;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics pursues these responsibilities with absolute integrity and is known for being unfailingly responsive to the need for new types of information and indexes of change;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics has earned an international reputation as a leader in economic and social statistics;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Internet website, www.bls.gov, began operating in 1995 and meets the public need for timely and accurate information by providing an ever-expanding body of economic data and analysis available to an ever-growing group of online citizens; and

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics has established the highest standards of professional competence and commitment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress com-

mends the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the occasion of its 125th anniversary for the exemplary service its administrators and employees provide in collecting and disseminating vital information for the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlemen from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on Senate Concurrent Resolution 30 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 30, which commends the work of the Bureau of Labor Statistics as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1884, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has served as the principal factfinding agency for the Federal Government for all matters in the fields of labor, economics, and statistics. In this capacity, it has collected, analyzed, and disseminated essential labor-related data to all levels of government, various Federal agencies, and the American public.

As an institution, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has evolved throughout its 125 years. Originally serving a broad fact-finding mandate, the Bureau has since developed into many specialized arms that study a multitude of labor issues, including wages and prices, the state of industrial relations, unemployment, demographic shifts, and workplace safety conditions.

The Bureau has stringent criteria for its data and analyses in order to ensure that it is not only accurate but relevant to society. As a result of rapidly changing economic conditions, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has developed a reputation for responsiveness, swiftly adjusting its measures and indices to provide citizens and policymakers of this Nation with high-quality statistical data.

In its commitment to disseminate this valuable information, the Bureau of Labor Statistics established a Web site in 1995. Since that time, a variety of data access tools have been developed, providing increased access to the statistical data it analyzes and develops. Today, the use of the Web site is over 1,000 times what it was when it began, with more than 20 million users in the months of this year alone.

The data and analyses provided by the Bureau are invaluable, contributing to policy development process as well as the allocation of Federal funds